

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A breathable material, comprising a low-elongation fabric layer and a microporous coating thereon, the microporous coating comprising a crystalline polymer composition and a filler.
2. A breathable material according to claim 1, wherein the low-elongation fabric layer comprises a low-elongation nonwoven layer.
3. A breathable material according to claim 2, wherein the low-elongation nonwoven layer comprises polyolefin cross-laminated open mesh.
4. A breathable material according to claim 3, wherein the low-elongation nonwoven layer comprises polyethylene cross-laminated open mesh having a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd².
5. A breathable material according to claim 2, wherein the low-elongation nonwoven layer comprises spunbonded polypropylene.
6. A breathable material according to claim 5, wherein the spunbonded polypropylene has a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd².
7. A breathable material according to claim 5, wherein the spunbonded polypropylene has a basis weight equal to or greater than about 1 oz/yd².
8. A breathable material according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline polymer composition comprises at least 50 weight percent of high density polyethylene.
9. A breathable material according to claim 1, wherein the filler comprises calcium carbonate.

10. A breathable material according to Claim 1, wherein the microporous coating comprises a single layer.

11. A breathable material according to Claim 1, wherein the microporous coating comprises two or more layers.

12. A breathable material according to claim 1, further comprising a second fabric layer, wherein the coating is arranged between the low-elongation fabric layer and the second fabric layer.

13. A breathable material according to claim 1, having a water vapor transmission rate of greater than about $150 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot 24 \text{ hr}$.

14. A breathable material according to claim 13, having a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $2000 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot 24 \text{ hr}$.

15. A breathable housewrap material, comprising a low-elongation fabric layer and a microporous coating comprising high density polyethylene and a filler thereon.

16. A breathable housewrap material according to claim 15, wherein the low-elongation fabric layer comprises a polyolefin nonwoven layer.

17. A breathable housewrap material according to claim 16, wherein the low-elongation polyolefin nonwoven layer comprises polyethylene cross-laminated open mesh having a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd^2 .

18. A breathable housewrap material according to claim 16, wherein the low-elongation polyolefin nonwoven layer comprises spunbonded polypropylene having a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd^2 .

19. A method of making a breathable material, comprising extrusion coating a low-elongation fabric layer with a composition comprising a crystalline polymer composition and a filler to form a coating on the low-elongation fabric layer, and incrementally stretching the coated low-elongation fabric layer to render the coating microporous.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the low-elongation fabric layer comprises a low-elongation nonwoven layer, and wherein the coating is formed on the nonwoven layer.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the coated nonwoven layer is incrementally stretched in the machine direction.

22. A method according to claim 20, wherein the coated nonwoven layer is incrementally stretched to an elongation less than about 2%.

23. A method according to claim 20, wherein the low-elongation nonwoven layer comprises polyethylene cross-laminated open mesh having a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd².

24. A method according to claim 20, wherein the low-elongation nonwoven layer comprises spunbonded polypropylene having a basis weight of greater than about 0.7 oz/yd².

25. A method according to claim 19, wherein crystalline polymer composition comprises high density polyethylene.